In the Claims:

Cancel claims 82, 86, 100, 101, 103 and 106-110 without estoppel or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof, and amend claims 81, 84, 89, 90, 91, 111, 122, 123, 124, and 127 as follows:

1.-80. (Cancelled)

81. (Currently Amended) An energy delivery device for ablating biological tissue, comprising:

a flexible body portion defining an outer surface that is substantially transparent to electromagnetic ablation energy and ~~at least one~~ an ablation element operably disposed within the body portion to transmit electromagnetic ablation energy therethrough; and

a shield disposed in fixed position relative to the ablation element within a portion of the body portion for directionally ~~controlling~~ reflecting electromagnetic ablation energy emitted through the outer surface.

82.-83. (Canceled)

84. (Currently amended) The device of claim 82, wherein the ~~at least one~~ ablation element is flexible.

85.-88. (Canceled)

89. (Currently amended) The device of claim 81 in which the shield for directionally ~~controlling~~ reflecting the ablation energy is flexible.

90. (Currently amended) The device of claim ~~81~~ 86 in which the shield is disposed at the fixed angular position to inhibit ablation of biological tissue adjacent to the outer surface of the flexible body portion not aligned with the ~~controlled emission~~ direction of the reflected electromagnetic ablation energy.

91. (Currently amended) The device of claim 90, wherein the shield at least partially reflects electromagnetic ablation energy emitted by the ~~at least one~~ ablation element toward ~~the controlled~~ said direction ~~of emission~~.

92.-110. (Canceled)

111. (Currently amended) The device of claim 81 in which the outer surface of the ablation assembly is adapted to be manipulated to one of a plurality of contact positions and to generally conform the ~~controlled emission direction~~ portion of the outer surface oriented in said reflection direction to the biological tissue during tissue ablation.

112. (Withdrawn) A method of ablating tissue at a target tissue site, comprising the steps:

providing a flexible ablation device defining an outer ablation surface and comprising a means for directionally controlling ablation energy emitted therefrom;

manipulating the distal portion of the ablation device to generally conform the ablation surface to a tissue surface at the target tissue site;

applying ablation energy sufficient to ablate tissue at the target tissue site.

113. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 112, wherein the ablation device comprises at least one ablation element.

114. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 113, wherein the at least one ablation element is an antenna.

115. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 112, wherein the ablation energy is one or more energies from the group consisting of: radiofrequency, microwave, and cryogenic.

116. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 112, wherein the means for directionally controlling the ablation energy is a shield device adapted to direct the ablation energy in a single direction along a longitudinal axis of the ablation device, whereby the step of applying ablation energy results in the creation of a continuous lesion.

117. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 116, wherein the step of applying ablation energy results in the isolation of at least one pulmonary vein from the epicardial surface of a patient's heart.

118-121. (Canceled)

122. (Currently amended) The device of claim 81, wherein the ~~at least one~~ ablation element with shield affixed thereto is slidably disposed within a receiving passage of the flexible body portion.

123. (Currently amended) The device of claim 122 in which the body portion further comprises a flexible tubular device having a lumen passing therethrough and disposed to slidably receive therein the ~~at least one~~ ablation element and shield within the lumen of the flexible tubular device.

124. (Currently Amended) A flexible ablation assembly, comprising:

an elongate flexible body defining a contact surface along at least a portion of its length that is configurable to contact a surface of the heart;

a flexible ablative element having a longitudinal axis and being capable of emitting electromagnetic ablative energy generally radially about said longitudinal axis, said flexible ablative element being operably disposed within said flexible body in spaced relation to said contact surface to prevent said ablative element from contacting the surface of the heart; and

a shield attached to said ablative element and disposed within said flexible body configured to ~~direct~~ reflect electromagnetic ablative energy to the surface of the heart through said contact surface and substantially prevent electromagnetic ablative energy from transmitting radially from said flexible body at locations other than said contact surface.

125. (Canceled)

126. (Previously Presented) The flexible ablation assembly as in claim 124 in which the elongate flexible body is substantially transparent to the electromagnetic energy emitted by the ablative element.

127. (Currently Amended) A flexible ablation assembly, comprising:

an elongate flexible body having at least one lumen therein and defining a contact surface along at least a portion of its length that is configurable to contact a surface of the heart; and

a flexible ablative element having a longitudinal axis and a shield affixed thereto aligned along the longitudinal axis to reflect electromagnetic energy for ~~being capable of~~ emitting electromagnetic ablative energy ~~generally radially about~~ along said longitudinal axis predominantly in a direction through the contact surface, said flexible ablative element and shield being slidably disposed within said lumen of said flexible body out of contact with the surface of the heart.

128. (Canceled)

129. (Previously Presented) The flexible ablation assembly as in claim 127 in which at least the contact surface of the elongate flexible body is substantially transparent to the electromagnetic energy emitted by the ablative element.